

**REMARKS**

Claims 2-8 and 10-20 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 2 and 10 have been amended into independent form to include all of the features of claims 1 and 9, respectively, and claims 1 and 9 have been cancelled.

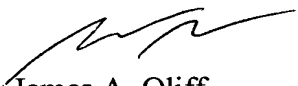
Applicants appreciate the indication of allowability for claims 2-8 and 10-16, and the allowance of claims 17-20.

The rejection of claims 1 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Brehob et al., U. S. Patent No. 6,098,585 and the rejection of claims 1 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Haghoosie et al., U. S. Patent No. 6,357,409 have been rendered moot by the cancellation of claims 1 and 9.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 2-8 and 10-20 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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